

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously Presented) A method for preventing and/or treating a disease involving  $\beta$ -sheet fibril formation, other than Alzheimer's Disease, in a subject which comprises administering to the subject a binding-inhibiting amount of a compound capable of inhibiting binding of the  $\beta$ -sheet fibril to RAGE so as to thereby prevent and/or treat a disease involving  $\beta$ -sheet fibril formation other than Alzheimer's Disease in the subject.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the compound is sRAGE or a fragment thereof.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the compound comprises a fragment of sRAGE.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the fragment of sRAGE comprises the V-domain of sRAGE.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the compound comprises an antibody or portion thereof.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein

the compound is an anti-RAGE antibody or a portion thereof.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the monoclonal antibody is a human, a humanized, or a chimeric antibody.
50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the compound comprises an Fab fragment of an anti-RAGE antibody.
51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the compound comprises the variable domain of an anti-RAGE antibody.
52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the compound comprises one or more CDR portions of an anti-RAGE antibody.
53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the compound is an IgG antibody.
54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the compound comprises a peptide, a peptidomimetic, a nucleic acid, or an organic compound with a molecular weight less than 500 daltons.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the  $\beta$ -sheet fibril is amyloid fibril.
56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the  $\beta$ -sheet fibril is a prion-derived fibril.
57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the  $\beta$ -sheet fibril ~~is~~ comprises a peptide selected from the group consisting of amyloid- $\beta$  peptide, amylin, amyloid A, prion-derived peptide, transthyretin, cystatin C, and gelsolin ~~and a peptide capable of forming amyloid~~.
58. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 57, where the  $\beta$ -sheet fibril ~~is~~ comprises an amyloid- $\beta$  peptide selected from the group consisting of A $\beta$  (1-39), A $\beta$  (1-40), A $\beta$  (1-42) and A $\beta$  (1-40) Dutch variant.
59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the subject is a mammal.
60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the mammal is a human being.
61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the administration is intralesional, intraperitoneal, intramuscular, intravenous, liposome mediated delivery, topical, nasal, oral, anal, ocular or otic delivery.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the method is for preventing a disease involving  $\beta$ -sheet fibril formation.
63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the method is for treating a disease involving  $\beta$ -sheet fibril formation.
64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the disease is diabetes.
65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the disease is hyperlipidemic atherosclerosis.
66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the disease is neuropathy.
67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the disease is nephropathy.
68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the disease is amyloidosis.
69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the disease is a wound associated with diabetes.
70. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the  $\beta$ -sheet fibril comprises a peptide capable of forming amyloid.